

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 20058 021508Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----033011 021518Z /53
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20058

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV XF US
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN QUERY RE SYG WALDHEIM'S CALL FOR
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 285324

1. ACTING FONMON BOUTROS GHALI TOLD ME TODAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A "SECRET" REPORT THAT, PRIOR TO SYG WALDHEIM'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO CALL A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, THE SYG HAD CALLED THE SECRETARY AND OBTAINED HIS APPROVAL. HE WAS NOT CONCERNED THAT WALDHEIM INITIATIVE MIGHT HAVE OUR APPROVAL, BUT WONDERED WHAT WE ENVISAGE THIS CONFERENCE WILL DO AND WHAT ITS RELATIONSHIP WILL BE TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE. HE WAS CLEARLY A BIT WORRIED THAT THE SYG WAS SEEKING TO UPSTAGE GOE AND THAT WALDHEIM'S ANNOUNCEMENT COULD UNDERMINE CAIRO CONFERENCE PROSPECTS. HE ASKED ABOUT USG POSITION RE SYG PROPOSAL.

2. I NOTED THAT UN PRESS SPOKESMAN, IN DISCUSSING SYG'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON NOVEMBER 30, HAD STATED THAT WALDHEIM HAD INFORMED THE TWO CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
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ABOUT GENERAL OUTLINE OF HIS IDEA PRIOR TO ANNOUNCING IT (USUN 5114). UN PRESS SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED SYG HAD NOT UP TO THAT TIME RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM EITHER THE TWO CO-CHAIRMAN OR THE PARTIES ON THE SUGGESTION. SO FAR AS USG POSITION IS CONCERNED, WE HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF SYG'S SUGGESTION AND ASSUME HE WILL BE CONDUCTING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES. WE WILL GIVE

IT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. OUR DECISION WILL BE TAKEN IN
LIGHT OF ALL RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS FOLLOWING CAIRO
PREPARATORY CONFERENCE.

3. ASKED IF GOE HAD RECEIVED INVITATION OR REPLIED, GHALI
SAID ABDEL MEGUID HAD SENT MESSAGE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. AS
YET, GOE HAS NOT REPLIED. MORE INFORMATION ON PURPOSE OF
PROPOSED CONFERENCE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO CAIRO PRE-
PARATORY CONFERENCE NEEDED BEFORE GOE CAN REPLY. GHALI
ASKED THAT WE KEEP HIM INFORMED OF OUR VIEWS ON SYG
PROPOSED CONFERENCE. ELTS

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